

EYES ONLY

Orig. to F.O.S.
15 Sep
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1 September 1960

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Chief
Foreign Broadcast Information Service
2430 E. Street N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Roger:

Subject: Coordination of Requirements

John Campbell asked this morning if we could have a talk about your exchange with him on coordination of requirements in your letters of 6 June and 8 August.

He still is disturbed about the efficiency of a procedure that would require the BBC to refer all requirements to Washington if they involve, as your 6 June letter says, processing more than a single item, coverage of more than a single broadcast for a day or two, or a response within minutes. He says that his real worry is that the system will be so inefficient as to be a real burden on the operational staff of the BBC.

As you know from your own days on Cyprus, the BBC often makes a proposal to Cyprus and receives a counterproposal, which is then accepted in whole or in part by the BBC in a final message. If these suggestions and countersuggestions each had to be approved by Washington, John fears that the one and a half hours a day during which Washington-Caverham-Kyrenia work hours overlap might prove inadequate for such exchanges.

John also feels that a certain amount of responsibility would be placed on the BBC to decide what fell within the responsibility of the Mediterranean Bureau to handle and what must be referred to Washington, and he thinks that the Chief of the Mediterranean Bureau should bear the responsibility for checking with Washington in accordance with your instructions.

John said he was pleased by the final paragraph of your 8 August letter in which you said no change was contemplated in the excellent day to day liaison between Caverham and Kyrenia on matters where time is a significant factor. He chooses to read this as an endorsement for his at least temporary decision not to change day-to-day liaison in which time is virtually always significant. He thus plans to direct his staff to send only longer range matters to Washington and hopes that this will be satisfactory with you.

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Personally, I feel that he has knowingly given an overliberal interpretation to your 8 August letter and has let it supersede your 6 June letter, which was most specific.

I am sure that he hopes you will let the matter rest and that he does not want to engage in further correspondence on the question unless it is taken up again by you. John has not asked me to write to you or to quote him, although I am sure he knows I will and that my letter--he hopes--may have the effect of encouraging you to allow his liberal interpretation of your last letter to stand.

Meanwhile, in order that Washington may judge the extent to which the BBC is following the spirit of your instructions, I suggest that I ask editors to send Washington an information copy of all BBC traffic to Cyprus and that Cyprus include Washington as an addressee of all its pertinent traffic to the BBC.

Since my talk with John was somewhat delicate, though frank, open, and conducted with obvious good will, I am sending this letter "eyes only" to you and Swanson.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Chief, London Bureau

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